

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /130 W

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R 131305Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3557

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 439

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CNO

CINCEUR

CINCLANT

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 2383

E.O. 11652: XGDS2

TAGS: MARR PFOR TZ

SUBJECT: TANGOV POLICY ON FOREIGN NAVAL VISITS

1. SUMMARY: IN WIDE RANGING CONVERSATION TANGOV FONMIN TOLD COMIDEASTFOR AND U.S. AMBASSADOR THAT TANZANIAN PORTS NOW OFF LIMITS TO ALL FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS SRI LANKA'S ZONE OF PEACE RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY

2. FOREIGN MINISTER MALECELA SAID TODAY THAT POLICY OF HIS GOVERNMENT IS TO EXCLUDE VISITS OF FOREIGN NAVAL UNITS IN PORTS OF TANZANIA.

3. THE MINISTER MADE THIS STATEMENT WHEN CALLED UPON BY ADMIRAL
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HANKS, COMIDEASTFOR. THE ADMIRAL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR

CARTER.

4. MALECELA SAID THE POSITION WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN HAS BEEN BASED ON NUMBER OF FACTORS INCLUDING CHARGE SOME YEARS AGO ('58 OR '59 BEFORE INDEPENDENCE) THAT A 14 DAY SOVIET VISIT LED TO ACCUSATION THE SOVIETS NOW HAVE A NAVAL BASE IN DAR ES SALAAM. HE SAID THAT, WHILE THERE HAD BEEN SUBSEQUENT VISITS BY FOREIGN NAVY UNITS, INCLUDING OF COURSE USS NOA IN 1971, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOW FIRMED ITS POLICY OF NO VISITS FROM ANY OF THE POWERS. (FYI: WE INTERPRET THIS TO INCLUDE ALL BUT THE AFRICAN LITTORAL STATES. END FYI.) WHEN ASKED TO EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE VISITS THIS YEAR OF INDIAN AND PAKISTANI NAVY UNITS, HE EXPLAINED APPROVAL WAS GIVEN FOR THE INDIAN VISIT BECAUSE OF A COMMITMENT WHICH FIRST VICE PRESIDENT JUMBE MADE DURING AN EARLIER STATE VISIT THIS YEAR TO NEW DELHI. MALECELA SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AWKWARD TO HAVE RENEGED ON JUMBE COMMITMENT AND SO VISIT ALLOWED. HE ADDED AS SOON AS PERMISSION HAD BEEN GIVEN, THE PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR MADE SIMILAR REQUEST FOR UNITS FROM HIS NAVY AND TANGOV ACQUIESCED IN INTEREST OF BALANCE BETWEEN THESE QUASI BELLIGERENTS.

5. ADMIRAL HANKS REFERRED TO RECENT INCIDENT OFF SOMALI COAST WHERE ONE OF HIS SHIPS WAS INVOLVED IN A SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION AND SUFFERED DAMAGE AND ASKED, IF THIS HAD HAPPENED OFF THE COAST OF TANZANIA, COULD SUCH A CRIPPLED VESSEL SEEK A FRIENDLY HARBOR HERE? MALECELA SAID, " YES, FOR ANY HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES WE WOULD OPEN OUR HARBORS. THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION."

6. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ON SRI LANKA'S ZONE OF PEACE RESOLUTION, MALECELA SAID TANGOV STRONGLY SUPPORTS RESOLUTION AND HIS GOVERNMENT WANTS ALL MAJOR POWERS OUT OF THE OCEAN AND BELIEVES THE OCEAN SHOULD BE LIMITED ONLY TO NAVIES OF THE LITTORAL STATES. HE FELT SUCH NAVAL UNITS WOULD NOT INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN AGGRESSIVE ACTS. WHEN REMINDED OF INDIA'S ACTIVE SUPPORT OF BANGLADESH, MALECELA RESPONDED BY DESCRIBING HISTORIC FRICTION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN AND RESTATED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT THE INDIANS WITH THEIR VAST HUMAN PROBLEMS WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE OTHER ADVENTURES IN AREA.

7. IN SUPPORT HIS POSITION AGAINST MAJOR POWER CONCENTRATION IN
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THE AREA, MALECELA REFERRED TO THE SOMALIA/ETHIOPIAN "TERRITORY/ BORDER" PROBLEM. HE CHARGED PROBLEM EXACERBATED BY THE PRESENCE OF, AND HARDWARE FROM, THE SOVIETS IN SOMALIA. HE SAID SIX OR SEVEN

YEARS AGO "IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE THAT SOMALIA WOULD HAVE BEEN SO AGGRESSIVE ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS WITH ETHIOPIA." HE ADDED IT ALSO HIS BELIEF THE ETHIOPIANS WOULD NOT BE SO RESILIENT IN THEIR RESISTENCE IF IT WERE NOT FOR SUPPORT THE EMPEROR RECEIVES

FROM U.S.

8. MALECELA WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO CREATE CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE FOR THIS COURTESY CALL BUT WAS ABSOLUTELY RESOLUTE IN ARTICULATING TANGOV VIEWS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND NAVAL VISITS. HE ADDED THAT WITH BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS AND DETENTE IN THE REST OF THE WORLD HE FELT THERE SHOULD BE SIMILAR MOVEMENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE IMPRESSED BY THE SMALL SIZE OF AMERICAN PRESENCE (POINTED OUT AS A COUNTER TO HIS CHARGE OF INEVITABLE MUTUAL ESCALATION) AS CONTRASTED TO THE LARGER SOVIET PRESENCE.

9. WHILE THE EMBASSY ANTICIPATED THAT A QUESTION MIGHT BE RAISED ON DIEGO GARCIA, THIS DID NOT HAPPEN.

10. COMMENT: TANGOV POLICY ON NAVAL VISITS NOW OUT IN THE OPEN FOR THE FIRST TIME. THIS PROBABLY RESULTED FROM REQUESTS FROM OURSELVES, THE FRENCH AND PERHAPS SOVIETS FOR VISITS HERE. MALECELA REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO LIKELIHOOD OF A SOVIET REQUEST SHOULD A VISIT TAKE PLACE FROM ONE OF WESTERN POWERS. IT ALSO APPEARS TO US THAT THE REAL FEAR ON PART OF TANZANIANS MAY BE INCREASED SOVIET STRENGTH IN OCEAN. IT WILL BE QUITE DIFFICULT FOR US TO CONSIDER US NAVAL VISITS IN FUTURE WITH POLICY HAVING BEEN SPELLED OUT SO CLEARLY TODAY, BUT SHOULD THERE BE BREAK IN THIS POLICY AND VISITS BY ANY OTHER UNITS, THE EMBASSY WOULD IMMEDIATELY REVIEW THE BIDDING.
CARTER

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